

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compositions and methods for controlling prepathological and pathological protein assembly or aggregation using picolinic acid, analogs, or derivatives thereof are described. The compositions of the invention, capable of solubilizing a conformationally altered protein, comprise a carboxylic acid anion of picolinic acid, its analogs, or derivatives thereof and a cation. According to the methods of the invention, conformationally altered protein assembly or aggregation in an animal is prevented or reversed by introducing the compositions of the invention to the conformationally altered protein. The compositions can be administered systemically by injection, oral administration, inhalation, transdermal, or other routes of administration. The compositions and methods can be used to treat diseases manifested by conformationally altered protein assembly or aggregation including, but not limited to Alzheimer's disease, spongiform encephalopathy, cerebral amyloid angiopathy, Parkinson's disease, frontal temporal dementia, Pick's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Huntington's disease and Creutzfelds-Jakob disease.

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